

R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3 and 7-14 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious in view of EP 1 053 794 ("Suzuki" - cited by applicant). It is respectfully pointed out, however, that the priority date of the present application is April 14, 2000, which is earlier than the publication date of Suzuki, November 22, 2000.

An accurate English translation of the priority document of the present application (JP 2000-113312 filed April 14, 2000) will be submitted in due course to show that the claims of the present application fully supported by the Japanese priority application, and are therefore entitled to the claimed priority date of April 14, 2000.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Suzuki is not a proper reference against the present application under 35 USC 102(a), and it is respectfully requested that the rejection in view of Suzuki be withdrawn.

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In view of the foregoing, entry of this Response, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

Application No. 09/833,330
Response to Office Action

Customer No. 01933

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,


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